

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during a telephone interview on June 2, 2005. Arguments made by the applicant's representative during the interview are set forth below. Although agreement was not reached at that time, applicant believes these arguments traverse the Examiner's rejections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 11, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant understands that the rejection of Claims 2, 11 and 14 are being withdrawn. Claims 12 and 15 have been amended to address this rejection. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-12 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,830 (Taylor). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Taylor is directed generally to a method for managing data migration for a storage system. Of interest, the method employs a hot copy process for copying data from one storage device to another. The Examiner interprets the control signal which initiates the hot copy process as a change command as recited in Applicant's claimed invention. In this case, Taylor fails to teach or suggest determining if a command is expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network and then implementing the command only when the command is expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network. Rather, the hot copy process appears to be initiated without any type of validation as is readily known in the art.

In contrast, Applicant's invention is directed generally to a method an improved method for validating network change commands before such commands are implemented in a storage area network. Of particular interest, Applicant's invention determines if the command is expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network before initiating the change command. For example, Claim 7 recites "determining if the storage allocation command is expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network; and implementing the storage allocation command when the storage allocation command is expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network" in combination with other elements of the claim. Similarly, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this aspect of the present invention. As amended, this

claim more specifically states that the initial configuration state indicated by the change command is compared to the current configuration state of the network. No such comparison is taught or suggested by Taylor.

This feature of Applicant's invention is further clarified in Claims 4 and 8 of the present application. These claims further recite that the change command is not implemented when the command is not expressed in terms of the current configuration state of the network. To the extent that a hot copy process is discontinued upon receipt of a read or write request, the hot copy process had already been initiated without any validation. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention defines patentable subject matter over Taylor.

Applicant further notes that the remaining dependent claims further define a particular type of change command as well as how these commands implicitly indicate the current network configuration. These types of change commands are not disclosed in Taylor and thus also recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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